

CITY OF CINCINNATI
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (OEQ)
STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
April 2007

OEQ

Cincinnati City Council passes an ordinance at the end of 2006 that created the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ). OEQ will consist of 4 staff members: two new positions (Director and Administrative Specialist) and two existing positions (Environmental Compliance Manager and Sr. Environmental/Safety Specialist). The search for a Director is underway. The office will be located on the third floor (Suite 320) of the Centennial II building located at 805 Central Avenue.

OEQ is currently responsible for assisting in brownfield remediation projects, evaluating property for potential environmental liabilities prior to city purchase, overseeing site-specific investigation and cleanup of City property, managing environmental cleanup at various City redevelopment sites, providing technical and environmental regulatory compliance assistance to all City departments, providing environmental evaluation of cut & fill permits, assisting the Law Department with Title X enforcement, convening an energy management group to evaluate City facility energy usage, and collecting and distributing local environmental information to interested parties.

For more information about the Office of Environmental Quality, contact Bonnie Phillips, bonnie.phillips@cincinnati-oh.gov or 513-352-5310.

Brownfield Redevelopment

The City of Cincinnati applied for a \$3M Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF) grant for the **MetroWest Commerce Park** to assist with the environment remediation and building demolition costs. The property is approximately 18 acres in size and is located in Lower Price Hill, southwest of the intersection of Gest and Evans Streets. It includes portions of the former Queen City Barrel property. Grant awards will be made in October 2007. The City plans to enter into a development agreement with MetroWest I, LLC, a joint entity of the Resurgence Group, LLC and AL. Neyer, Inc. A plan is in place to develop 250,000 sq. ft. of light industrial/office-flex space and create 400 new jobs.

The City of Cincinnati was awarded a CORF grant in 2005 to remediate the former Kirk & Blum Manufacturing Co. and Unova Industrial Automation Systems properties for the **Millworks** project located in Oakley, bordered by Disney, Marburg, and Forrer Streets. After additional environmental site assessment work is completed at the 70+acre site, the developer plans to purchase the remaining property and start the cleanup and demolition work required at the site. The mixed-use development of the property will include residential, retail, office, and entertainment space.

The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority was awarded a \$750,000 Clean Ohio Assistance Fund (COAF) grant from the State of Ohio for the American Can property located at 4101 Spring Grove Ave. in Northside (now referred to as Factory Square). Remediation of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) flooring contamination is underway. The City of Cincinnati has been working on this project with the developer since 2003. The developer plans to convert the 5-story structure to 93 market-rate apartments and 30,000 square feet of commercial space. The former Myron Johnson Lumber Company was recently added to the Factory Square project and will include green space, office, retail, and townhouses surrounding the American Can building.

Deutch and Mose Cohen scrap yards). USEPA approval for the remainder of the site is expected soon. The site is approximately 17 acres in size and is bordered to the west by Mehring Way, to the north by Freeman Avenue, to the east by Linn Street, and to the South by Gest Street. Environmental remediation costs are being paid by the State of Ohio under a \$3M Clean Ohio Revitalization fund grant awarded to the City of Cincinnati. The developer plans to construct light industrial/office-flex space and create 500 new jobs.

A Covenant Not to Sue from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) is expected by late summer for the Center Hill Commerce Park (otherwise known as the Center Hill Landfill), located on the corner of Center Hill Road and Este Avenue. The Remedial Action Plan and Operation & Maintenance Plan have been submitted to the OEPA for their review and approval. A separate copy of the document has been placed in the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Elmwood Place branch for review by interested citizens. The City plans to enter into a development agreement with Al. Neyer, Inc. for the development of more than 500,000 square feet of light industrial/flex/office space and 650 new jobs.

The City received its third USEPA Brownfield Job Training grant. During the 2-year grant term, an additional 60 residents impacted by brownfields will be provided 292 hours of training over an 8-week period. Throughout the two previous grant programs, 136 residents have graduated from the program and 87 of those 136 (84%) have been employed by more than 40 end-employers.

For more brownfield redevelopment information, contact Bonnie Phillips, bonnie.phillips@cincinnati-oh.gov or 513-352-5310. For information about the City's Strategic Program for Urban Redevelopment (SPUR), go to <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cdap/pages/-9408/>.

Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

Access Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services Community Breeze newsletter online at <http://www.hcdoes.org/>. If interested, you can also subscribe to <https://enviroflash.epa.gov/airnow/subscriber/start.do> EnviroFlash; a free service produced through a partnership between EPA, State, and local air quality agencies that provides daily air quality emails to interested parties.

Health Department – Lead

The Cincinnati Health Department's (CHD's) Lead Program is currently staffed by three lead risk assessors, a case manager for addressing children with elevated lead levels greater than 10 ug/dl, a health educator for the Southwest Regional Resource Center (SWRRC), a clerk and the program supervisor.

Research indicates that a child who has blood lead levels between 5-9 ug/dl will eventually have lead poisoning before the age of 6 years. The department is currently in the process of hiring two nurses to intervene at blood-lead levels of 5-9 ug/dl. The addition of the 2 nurses to the Lead Program will further promote lead awareness and education at home visits with parents.

CHD's Lead Program operates the Southwest Regional Resource Center (SWRRC) and has jurisdiction over 27 counties in Ohio. CHD also plays an active role in sending educational information to various Health Fairs in Ohio and within the City of Cincinnati. Lead Awareness Week is held annually and citizens are encouraged to bring in paint chip samples or their children's toys for a free evaluation of lead.

Primary prevention activities would be conducted within the 9 WIC clinics in the City of Cincinnati. Educational information will be made available at these clinics in addition to providing educational seminars. CHD already works in collaboration with Children's Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) by providing assistance at the Lead Clinic on a weekly basis. CHD is in the process of collaborating with the

maternity wards at Good Samaritan and Christ Hospital to create awareness and educate the parents of newborns on the dangers of lead.

The primary role of the lead risk assessors is to inspect the dwelling of a child that has an elevated lead level. If hazards are found on the property, lead hazard control orders are issued to the owner/landlord. The owners have 45 days to comply. Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis. If owners fail to contact the Health Department, the property owner may be prosecuted.

For more information about the Lead Program, contact Rashmi Aparajit at rashmi.aparajit@cincinnati-oh.gov or 513-357-7368.

LEED – Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design

On September 20, 2006, Cincinnati City Council passed an ordinance that provides an automatic property tax exemption of newly constructed or rehabilitated residential and commercial properties, if the property is built or rehabilitated to Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design ("LEED") Certified, Silver, gold or Platinum standards as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council. For more information, contact Eric Denson at 513-352-4981 or eric.denson@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Metropolitan Sewer District (MSDGC) Wet Weather Improvement Plant

MSD's Wet Weather Improvement Plant (WWIP) is a comprehensive, long-range plan to reduce sewer overflows and improve public health in Hamilton County. MSD developed the WWIP in response to the Global Consent Decree, which requires the District to fix sewer overflow problems and to address sewage backups into basements (known as Water in Basement or WIB). The WWIP is one of the largest public works projects undertaken in our region's history, and it will affect everyone living, working, and visiting the Greater Cincinnati area.

MSD worked very hard to develop a program that complies with the decree, improves our local water quality, and is also affordable for our ratepayers. The WWIP is made up of approximately 380 individual projects in the cities and townships throughout Hamilton County. A significant amount of work will be completed by 2002, but work could continue beyond that time. MSD estimates the total program cost at \$1.99 billion (2006 dollars). The WWIP is currently under review by the regulatory authorities.

The WIB response program has been underway since 2004. It is a comprehensive program consisting of rapid response, one-on-one assistance to property owners experiencing WIB, clean-up service, reimbursement for property damage and installation of measures to prevent further episodes of WIB, such as backflow prevention devices, isolation pumps and increase system capacity.

MSD's 24-hour Customer Service line is (513) 352-4900. Additional information about the Global Consent Decree is posted at http://www.msdbg.org/consent_decree/. For further assistance, contact Kathy Rahtz at Kathy.rahtz@cincinnati-oh.gov or (513) 244-1321.

Parks

The Parks Green Building Energy Pilot Project will test the use of renewable solar and wind energy to provide supplemental power to the Park Board Administration Building at 950 Eden Park Drive. The pilot project will demonstrate the effectiveness of using renewable energy to power city buildings. A computer monitor installed inside the Administration Building will display the energy being generated by the panels and the turbine. Project findings will be used to explore potential expansion of the use of renewable energy to power other city buildings. The solar panels are being installed by Third Sun Solar and the wind turbine by Wind Power from Athens, Ohio. Duke Energy donated the solar panels for the project, valued at \$45,000. The Parks Foundation also secured a \$60,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development Office of Energy Efficiency for this project.

In addition to the Green Building Energy Pilot Project Parks:

- Converted 33% of their mowing equipment to soy-based biodiesel in 2006 and plans to convert the remainder by the end of this year. The reduction of pollution from these sources will be equivalent to the planting of 12,000 trees.
- Purchased 5 Smart "Big Belly" Trash Cans in 2006 with plans to purchase 50 more in 2007 and a total of 250 by 2010. The reduction of pollution from trash pickup will be equivalent to the planting of 8,000 trees.
- Plans to plant 3,500 trees in 20 targeted communities and 3,000 trees in non-targeted communities with private and volunteer leverage by 2014. The goal is to achieve healthy tree canopy coverage in all neighborhoods (25% residential, 10% downtown) by 2024.

For more information, contact Gerald Checco at Gerald.checco@cincinnati-oh.gov or (513) 861-8970.

Recycling

In 2006 Cincinnati residents recycled 11,313 tons of metal, glass, plastic, and paper through the curbside and drop-off recycling program.